

## CLAIMS

1. A modular track for sustaining and towing loads, with which to transfer in a guided mode, a load (4) from a first loading/unloading station to a second utilization station and vice versa, characterized by a modular structure  
5 composed of a sequence of panels (1) placed on the ground, by the fact that it is furnished with at least one longitudinal guiding groove (2) within which can be inserted at least one beak (3) emerging from the load (4) to be transferred, with towing means (6) with means (10) for dragging beaks (3), in each panel (1), and with each towing means (6) characterized by the fact that it includes a  
10 longitudinal ring like element (7) stretched between two spools (8) and (9) at least one of which is connected to a motor (12) combined with at least one switch (11) of the fluid dynamic circuit, as well as the track being characterized by a forward way (14) and a return way (15) closed on a primary feeder motor, and by the fact that the switches (11), at least one for each towing means (6), are  
15 capable of activating or deactivating the corresponding motors (12) from the fluid dynamic circuit.
2. The modular track, as claimed in claim 1, characterized by a sequence of panels (1) connected to each other by means of hinged means (16) (18) which allow them to change direction on the plane containing the longitudinal  
20 groove (2).
3. The modular track, as claimed in claim 1, characterized by shunting segments (20) interposed between the adjacent panels (1) - placed at the points in which the track branches off - furnished with a longitudinal groove and a curved groove which coincide in the initial tract.
- 25 4. The modular track, as claimed in claim 1, characterized by two longitudinal

grooves (2) placed next to each other and by two distinct series of towing means (6) with the longitudinal ring like element (7) capable of determining the towing action on the load (4) in the two opposite directions of the same track.

5 5. The modular track, as claimed in claim 1, characterized by two longitudinal grooves (2) placed next to each other in correspondence with the two branches of the towing means (6), with the longitudinal element (7) capable of pushing the beaks (3) according to the two directions of progression of the load to be transferred.

10 6. A panel with which to create the modular track for sustaining and towing loads as per claim 1, characterized by two side strips (21) and (22) resistant to the compression exercised by the load (4) to be towed, by at least one longitudinal groove (2) placed towards its centre, by at least one towing means (6) furnished with a longitudinal ring like element (7) stretched between two  
15 spools (8) and (9) one of which is motorized, and furnished with dragging means (10), with at least one switch (11), with motor (12), associated with the spool (8), as well as said panel being characterized by the means (16) and (18) for its mechanical connection in sequence with other panels (1) and by the extremities (31) and (32) for the connection with the correspondent upload  
20 duct (14) and download duct (15) in the joined panels (1).

7. The panel, as claimed in claim 6, characterized inside by a towing means (6) having a longitudinal ring like element (7) stretched between two spools (8) and (9) and equipped with dragging means (10), adequate to interact with the beaks (3) of load (4) inserted inside the longitudinal groove (2), and with its  
25 own deactivating beak (33) through which it moves the switch (11) from the

active to the inactive position.

8. The panel, as claimed in claims 6 and 7, characterized by the fact that the dragging means (10) of the towing means (6) are separated by a distance between them which is at least equal to the distance between the beaks (3) jutting from the load (4) to be dragged.

9. The panel, as claimed in claims 6 and 7, characterized by the fact that the deactivating beak (33) of said towing means (6) precedes the first dragging means (10) by at least the distance that will enable it to deactivate the switch (11) just before the first dragging means (10) reaches the longitudinal groove (2) inside the panel (1).

10. The panel, as claimed in claim 6 and 7, characterized by the fact that the deactivating beak (33) of said towing means (6) precedes the first dragging means (10) by very little in order to stop just before the switch (11), and said dragging means (10) being made to bend to allow the passage of the first beak (3) of the arriving load (4) with which the switch (11) is activated.

11. The panel, as claimed in claim 6, characterized by a towing means (6) appropriate to interact with the two beaks (3) jutting from the load (4) which needs to be directed and towed, the first of which has a length that enables it to activate the switch (11) associated with the motor (12) inside the panel (1), while the second one is shorter and is appropriate to interact only with dragging means (10) of the longitudinal ring like element (7) of the towing means (6).

12. The panel, as claimed in claim 6, characterized by towing means (6) which include the longitudinal ring like element (7) with dragging means (10), the motor (12), the switch (11) having crosswise activation arms at a level which is

lower than that of the dragging means (10).

13. The panel, as claimed in claim 6, characterized by several joints (30) distributed along its length, adequate to enable it to be laid on the ground in an uneven line.

5 14. The panel, as claimed in claim 6, characterized by two longitudinal grooves (2) and two towing means (6) with the longitudinal ring like element (7) each one is placed in correspondence with one of the two longitudinal grooves (2) to operate on the beaks (3) inserted inside them with towing movements in opposite directions.

10 15. The panel, as claimed in claim 6, characterized by two longitudinal grooves (2) placed in correspondence with the two branches of the towing means (6) in a position that will enable the dragging means (10) to push beaks (33) in the two foreseen advancing movements.

15 16. The panel, as claimed in claim 6, characterized on the extremities by hinge means (16) and (18) for the connection in series of the panels (1).

17. The panel, as claimed in claim 6, characterized by at least two ducts (14) and (15) for the fluid dynamic circuit fixed with the extremities (31) and (32) on one of the side edges, with said extremities capable of coupling with the appropriate external means with those of the corresponding adjacent panels.

20

=====